

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BERLIN 05478 091807Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 VO-03 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00
EB-08 COME-00 INR-07 DODE-00 /031 W
-----100358Z 089590 /63
R 091615Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4275
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION USBERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5478

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, ETRA, EEWT, CSCE, CGE, CVIS, GE, US
SUBJECT: PROLONGED STAYS FOR GDR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

REF: (A) BERLIN 5389, (B) STATE 43278; (C) BERLIN 5429

1. SUBSEQUENT TO GDR NOTE ON KROETZSCH VISA REQUEST (REF A). EMBASSY RECEIVED ON MARCH 3 A SECOND NOTE REQUESTING VISAS FOR PROLONGED STAY FOR HORST LANGE, WIFE, AND DAUGHTER, WISHING TO WORK WITH B. ELLIOTT OF BUFFALO. NOTE INCLUDED SAME LANGUAGE ON BEIL-RICHARDSON AND KIRSTEN-POLANSKY CONVERSATIONS.

2. ON MARCH 8, EMBOFF MET WITH OFFICIALS OF CONSULAR DEPARTMENT MFA (SEIDEL AND VETTER) TO PARALLEL ECON OFFICER'S TALK WITH SCHIIED(SEE REF . C) . EMBOFF MADE APPROPRIATE POINTS FROM REFM(A) TO ADVISE THAT USG WOULD NOT ACCEDE TO REQUESTS IN EITHER CASE. HE ADDED THAT EMBASSY WOULD CONTINUE TO PROCESS VISAS FOR SHORT TRIPS BY SUCH SERVICE ENGINEERS AS HERETOFORE.

3. MRS. SEIDEL PROFESSED "ASTONISHMENT AND DISAPPOINTMENT" AND IN A SOMEWHAT MORE AGGRESSIVE TONE THAN IN HER WONT, SOUGHT TO DEBATE WITH EMBOFF ABOUT BERLIN SITUATION. SHE ALSO SAID THAT IT WAS HER VIEW THAT US UNWILLINGNESS TO ISSUE THESE VISAS WAS AGAINST
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PAGE 02 BERLIN 05478 091807Z

THE SPIRIT OF HELSINKI. SHE NOTED THAT THE GDR WAS FORTHCOMING ON HELSINKI MATTERS, REFERRING SPECIFICALLY TO CONSULAR DEPARTMENT'S ACCEPTANCE OF LISTS OF CASES, E.G. THE CSCE FAMILY REUNIFICATION "NON-PAPERS". INFALLY, SHE SAID THAT SHE DID NOT UNDERSTAND THE "CONNECTION" BETWEEN THESE VISA APPLICATIONS, WHICH WERE RELATED EXCLUSIVELY TO TRADE, AND " FOUR POWER MATTERS".

4. EMBOFF DECLINED TO DEBATE BERLIN WITH MRS. SEIDEL BUT SAID THAT IT WAS CLEAR THAT BOTH THE GDR AND THE US HAD THEIR OWN VIEWS ON THE CITY. WHEN THE GDR TOOK STEPS WHICH SOUGHT TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF THE CITY UNILATERALLY, IT SHOULD NOT BE SURPRISED IF SUCH STEPS ADVERSELY AFFECTED THE ATMOSPHERE IN WHICH ALL CONCRETE STEPS IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS TOOK PLACE. AFTER SEVERAL FURTHER PROBES BY MRS. SEIDEL TO DEBATE BERLIN, EMBOFF CLOSED THE CONVERSATION AND LEFT.

5. COMMENT: IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT MRS. SEIDEL, NORMALLY A GENIAL DISCUSSION PARTNER, WAS TOUCHY AND AGGRESSIVE IN THIS MEETING AND SOUGHT TO HAVE EMBOFF DO WHAT IS CLEARLY COULD NOT - DEBATE BERLIN. THE SENSITIVITY OF THE GDR OVER BERLIN MATTERS EMERGED IN THIS TALK, HER REFERENCE TO HELSINKI ALSO SUGGESTS THAT THE GDR MAY HOLD THESE CASES AVAILABLE TO CITE AT BELGRADE IF THEY FEEL THEMSELVES HARD PRESSED ON BASKET THREE IMPLEMENTATION.
POLANSKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC NOTES, ENTRY VISAS, TECHNOLOGICAL EXCHANGES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977BERLIN05478
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770081-1078
Format: TEL
From: BERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770380/aaaacrtl.tel
Line Count: 81
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 83775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 BERLIN 5389, 77 STATE 43278, 77 BERLIN 5429
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3169642
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PROLONGED STAYS FOR GDR TECHNICAL PERSONNEL
TAGS: PFOR, OTRA, EEW, CVIS, GC, US, CSCE, (KROETZSCH, GERHARD)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/83775ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009